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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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6-17-1927

## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 24)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 24)

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness I hold fast,  
and will not let  
it go."  
—Job 27:5

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers  
of the world  
unite! You  
have nothing to  
lose but your  
chains."

Vol. IX, No. 24

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Fight Against Levy Firm Won

All Workers Back at Work—Strikers  
Praise International and Condemn  
"Left" Misleaders.

"We are building the union step by step," General Manager Julius Hochman reported at the last meeting of the Joint Board, and no truer words ever were uttered concerning the present condition of the cloak and dress organization in New York City. With the fight against the Communists all but liquidated, the real effort of the union, and of all its departments, is now being directed toward the gradual strengthening of the position of the workers in every branch of the industry.

An instance of this businesslike manner of handling its affairs was shown by the Joint Board in the conduct of the strike against the firm of Benj. Levy for the past three weeks. With the aid of the Organization Committee, this shop, and the shops of all this firm's contractors, were so completely isolated that the firm finally realized that peace with the union (Continued on Page 2)

## Communist "Joint" Ordered To Vacate Union B

Ousted Bankrupt "Left" Officials Told To Get On  
Communists Moved Out All Furniture  
Week in Anticipation of Ouster

Communists, formerly in control of the New York Joint Board of Cloak and Dress Unions, were ordered this Tuesday morning, June 14, to vacate their stronghold, the Joint Board Building at 129 East 25th Street, by Judge George L. Genung, sitting in Part 1, 9th District Municipal Court, or pay \$12,000 in back rent within five days. Judge Genung directed a final order in favor of Dr. Max Herbst of 2 Lafayette Street, receiver for the estate of Mrs. Rose Benjamin, holder of the second mortgage on the building.

The order is based on the Communists' failure to pay rent from December until May last. Since the commencement of the foreclosure proceedings the rent for June has also accrued.

That the Communists are disposed from the New York cloak and dress parent body, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, following the disastrous conduct of the \$3,500,000 cloak strike of 1926, will not meet the back rental on the building is evidenced by the fact that late Friday night and early Saturday morning last all the furniture, files and records were moved out to some unknown destination. Communists were stopped from vandalizing the building when a City Marshal forced them to repair partitions they sought to tear down under threat of going to jail. The International charged that an effort was made to wreck the interior of the offices, so that they might not be intact in the event that the newly reorganized Joint Board, affiliated with the International, takes over the building.

## Secretary Baroff Back at His Desk

Returns to Duties After Illness of  
Several Months

Bro. Abraham Baroff, general secretary-treasurer of the I. L. G. W., returned late last week to the General Office to take up again his duties, interrupted by a severe illness which lasted several months.

It will be recalled that when Bro. Baroff left New York eight weeks ago for a farm in Connecticut, with the consent of the General Executive Board, to recuperate from the effects of a difficult operation, the Communist slander-mongers published in their sheets a vicious story to the effect that "Baroff quit because there was no longer any money in the office and that he is through with the International." Baroff later repudiated, in a signed statement which appeared in the labor press, this contemptible lie and promised to come back as soon as health permitted to join the fighting ranks of the International.

Bro. Baroff is back now, and is applying himself with his customary vigor to the task of his post. The active workers in the General Office extended to him a warm and cordial welcome upon his return.

## Unity House Opens Formally This Friday, June 17

Big Vacation Center Ready to Receive Thousands During the  
Summer

The big, splendid vacation playground and workers' hotel at Forest Park, Pike County, Pa., owned and managed by the I. L. G. W., will throw open its doors to guests and vacationists this Friday, June 17.

The opening will be accompanied by a fine concert, in which several well-known artists will take part, among them Mme. Sirocka, soprano; James Phillips, singer of English folk songs; Abraham Berk, violinist, and Misha Applebaum, baritone; P. Burstein, Isidore Cashner, Yiddish stage star performers. Abraham Epstein will be at the piano.

Representatives of the labor movement in and around New York will be at the opening, including delegations from all the I. L. G. W. locals in New York and adjacent cities. Unity House, in the Blue Ridge hills of Pennsylvania, is as beautiful in June as it is later in the season. The Unity lake, a mile and a half long, sparkles in the sunshine and offers an irresistible lure for the swimmer and rower.

The management has succeeded in engaging an excellent staff of waitresses and an expert chef. Every care is being taken that the food shall be of the very best. The social director has also taken care to prepare the tennis courts, bowling alleys and ball fields. Plans are also finished for dramatic entertainments, camp fires, costume parties, group singing, concerts and, last but not least, dancing every evening with a fine jazz orchestra.

An excellent educational program has also been prepared. There will be lectures several mornings in social science subjects and on the affairs of the day. The management advises all such as wish to go to Unity to register

early, as this will facilitate matters for the management and insure for the guests all the conveniences of the place.

## International Secures Freedom of Cloakmaker Prisoner

Victim of Communist Treachery in Lost Strike Gains Freedom—  
Workers Stage Ovation at International Building and Thank  
President Sigman—Cloakmakers Cheer Judge Rosalsky

Release on parole of Bro. Abraham Figowitz, 43 West 112th Street, who had been sentenced to serve six months on Rikers Island on a charge of assault growing out of the Communist-organized cloak strike of 1926, was obtained late Saturday afternoon, June 11, by President Morris Sigman. Figowitz had served slightly more than half of his sentence.

The release of Figowitz presages early freedom for four other cloakmaker prisoners who, according to their own statements, were forced to plead guilty, despite their protests of innocence, by their former high Communist officials.

Judge Otto Rosalsky of General Sessions listened to President Sigman, who spent the last two days pleading in open court on behalf of Figowitz and the others. Bro. Sigman was aided in his efforts by Samuel Markewich, of 51 Chambers Street, counsel for the imprisoned men. Bro. Sigman pointed out that Figowitz had no jury trial and that he was pleaded guilty over his protests of innocence. The defunct Communist "Joint" sent Mrs. Figowitz, at the time of her husband's incarceration, to the International Union, and she and her family have

been maintained by the International ever since.

Figowitz, who is a member of Operators' Union Local 2, with three other (Continued on Page 2)

## Sigman and Hochman Nail Another Communist Calumny

Expose as Fabrication Out of the Whole Cloth Canard That a  
"Committee of Students" Was Beaten Up in General Office

The routed Communist adventurers, driven out now from every point of vantage they held for a time in the

needle trade unions, are in sheer desperation resorting now with increased venom to their old pastime, the spreading of slander and venom about the International Union and its officers.

Thus, for instance, last Sunday there appeared a "story" in the Communist press which gave a hair-raising account of "a committee from a students' organization" which came to visit President Sigman and Vice-President Hochman and was set upon by "gangsters" and beaten up in the General Office.

That this wild story has no foundation whatever, but was concocted in the diseased minds of the Communist (Continued on Page 2)

## Bonnaz Workers Defeat "Left" Candidates for Executive Board

Communists Licked Twice in Short Time in Local 66—Members  
Demand "Left" Manager Resign

Only a few weeks ago the Communist group, which has held sway in Local 66 for some time past, received a sound rebuke from the members of that organization, when at a meeting the latter voted to reject the proposal of the "left" manager to permit, in the interests of "peace" with the employers, a wage cut in the whole trade. The members of Local 66 minced no words at that meeting in denouncing the incompetent administration of the Communist-left group that has brought down considerably the influence of the embroiderers' union in the trade during its tenure of office.

That vote indicated the new trend in the bonnaz embroidery local. The

second defeat of the "revolutionary" incompetents of Local 66, even more decisive than the first, was not long in coming, and took place last Friday, June 10, at a regular meeting at 7 East 15th Street. The election of three executive board members was on the order of the day, and the three "right" candidates were elected by a large vote, defeating the three candidates sponsored by the Communist faction in the local.

The election of these three candidates to the executive gives the trade union element in Local 66 a majority on the board. A demand for the resignation of the "left" manager of the local has now been launched and is daily growing in volume.



## International Officers Expose Another Communist Calumny

(Continued from Page 1)

scribblers, goes, of course, without saying. To clear up the whole matter, nevertheless, both President Sigman and Bro. Hochman issued this Monday a statement which sets forth all they know about this "students' visit" and incidentally gives an idea to what depth of depravity the Communist advocates have sunk.

President Sigman's statement on this subject follows:

"The Communist 'Freiheit' and its English edition, the 'Daily Worker', are daily printing fabrications and slanders about our Union and about me personally. Last Sunday the 'Freiheit' printed a slanderous attack on me, in which I am charged with having refused to meet a certain students' committee of three and in having caused to have this committee assaulted and beaten up.

"I first learned of this slander from the columns of the 'Freiheit'. I at once made an inquiry whether any such committee came to our office, and, after a thorough investigation found out that no one of any authority in the building had seen such a committee or discussed anything with them.

"It is only too evident that the whole affair is one of the many wild and fantastic calumnies which have so assiduously been spread about our Union by the Communists in order to blacken our Union before the community.

"I am deeply convinced that the International Students' Organization is totally ignorant of this latest contemptible calumny of the Communists with regard to our Union. The whole story is probably the concoction of a few Communist agents and supporters who would even discredit the students' organization in order to gain their end—injury to our Union."

Vice-President Hochman's statement reads:

"A few weeks ago I was called up by a Mr. Wagner, who told me that he represents the International Students' Organization, and invited me to speak for his Organization together with some Communists. I informed him that it is not our policy to speak from one platform with any one of the Communist group, but that I would be very glad to speak for his organiza-

tion any other time that they arrange a meeting.

"Last week, the same Mr. Wagner called me on the telephone and told me that a dinner was arranged for Saturday night at which I was to speak. I then reminded him of the conditions under which I would speak. My conditions were acceptable to him and he was to notify me by letter, the place and time the dinner was to be held.

On Saturday I did not receive such a letter. I then got in touch with the International House, 500 Riverside Drive, in an effort to find out why I did not receive the letter and whether the dinner would be held. No one was there to give me any information, so I asked to speak to one of the secretaries. After asking him questions about the dinner that evening, he referred me to Mr. Wagner at Circle 9085. I called this number and was told that Mr. Wagner was gone for the day.

"I therefore concluded that something must have taken place that changed the plans or that my presence was not wanted. This is all that I know. A committee of this body never came to my office on Saturday nor on any other day. The story printed in the 'Freiheit' is nothing more than another lie of the Communist group."

## International Secures Release of Prisoner

(Continued from Page 1)

cloakmakers now on Harts Island serving longer sentences, recently signed a bitter denunciation of the Communist tactics, which they held responsible for their imprisonment. The statement declared:

"We, the undersigned imprisoned cloakmakers, have learned that the Communists have sent out an appeal in our names for money.

"We wish to notify all cloakmakers and the whole labor movement that this appeal is but another dirty Communist trick for collecting money to carry on their union-smashing business.

"We are in jail because the Communists told us to plead guilty. They did that to save their own necks. We have no confidence in these deposed leaders who ruined the cloakmakers

and their union and committed a crime against us.

Judge Rosalsky considered President Sigman's plea and recommended Figowitz's release to the Parole Board. How sincerely the cloakmakers appreciate the fine act of Judge Otto Rosalsky in having been instrumental in the paroling of Figowitz was evident in the spontaneous cheering of the Judge's name among the huge crowd that assembled in front of the International building when Figowitz arrived there last Saturday afternoon. The cloakmakers, while sounding praise of Judge Rosalsky, also expressed the hope that the rest of the cloakmaker prisoners, who are suffering innocently on account of the misdeeds of their former Communist leaders, would soon be liberated.

## New York Labor Movement Honors Meyer London's Memory

One Thousand Representatives of Labor Bodies Come to Monument Unveiling—Sigman, Vladek, Weinberg and Solomon Make Stirring Speeches.

Last Sunday, June 12th, the Labor movement of New York City unveiled a monument on the grave of its unforgettable leader and teacher, Meyer London. Despite a torrid temperature, more than a thousand active workers from all the branches of the Labor

movement in New York City came to the Workmen's Circle Cemetery to pay homage to the memory of the late peerless advocate of the workers' cause.

London's monument is as simple as was his life. On a simple, white marble stone there are engraved the words "Meyer London—Dedicated his life to the Cause of the Workers." This short inscription expresses all that could be said about London's noble and altruistic life. It epitomizes his idealism, his purpose in life and the whole meaning of his existence.

Just as simple and warm were the speeches of the representatives of the various organizations that were made at the unveiling ceremony. Charles Solomon and Louis Waldman spoke in the name of the Socialist Party, and Joseph Weinberg spoke in the name of the Workmen's Circle. C. B. Vladek and Adolph Held paid London a final farewell in the name of the "Forward" Association, while President Morris Sigman spoke in the name of the cloakmakers and dressmakers, with whose struggles of life the Meyer London was closely affiliated.

The following is part of President Sigman's address:

"I have known Meyer London over twenty years, and I have met him frequently on the battleground. I remember the alert, brilliant London when he came to our Union about twenty years ago at small meetings, speaking then with the same earnestness and persuasiveness as he had later talked to tens of thousands of people. London never wanted from the Labor movement but an opportunity to serve it. He was the most unselfish man I have met in all my life."

Meyer London's final resting place is in the section of the Workmen's Circle Cemetery where are buried some of the best known literary lights and leaders of the Jewish labor movement in America.

## Philadelphia Dressmakers Will Journey To Unity House on July 4

The Educational, Social and Recreational Circle of Local 50 is buzzing with life. New avenues of recreation have opened to Philadelphia dressmakers. People who had not thought of recreation except when it was provided for them, are now finding that the best way to get recreation is to go out and get it. There is more fun hitting the ball yourself than watching someone else do it.

While many of them know how to swim, very few have learned the strokes that take one the farthest with the least effort. With the new swimming group they are learning new strokes in the modern way, making swimming both a pleasure and a health-giving sport. Registration is still open for swimming and tennis. Those wishing to come into the groups are asked to get in touch with Ada Rosenfeld, secretary of the Union.

Mention has already been made of hikes arranged every Sunday. Last Sunday, June 12, the Circle arranged a trip to the historical Valley Forge. The activities of the Circle have become so popular that, while it was originally planned to have only one bus for 33 people, the response was so great that it was found necessary to have three busses, and, if time permit-

ted, many more could have been filled.

The next trip of the Circle will be to the Unity House for the Fourth of July week end. Such as remember the trip of last year know that a good time was had. Plans have been made for better transportation than last year. Instead of having semi de luxe busses, de luxe busses are being hired. The committee of the Circle is working hard to see that this event stands out as one of the biggest events of the summer in Local 50. Those wishing to come are asked to register early, as reservations must be made for the busses and at the Unity House.

## JOINT BOARD WINS FIGHT AGAINST THE BENJ. LEVY FIRM

(Continued from Page 1)

was more profitable than war. The result was the reinstatement of all the workers in the place, and the signing of a union agreement.

It is interesting to note that the workers of the Benj. Levy shop, who formerly were counted among the adherents of the Communist "joint," realizing the total futility of their former leaders, at their last shop meeting completely repudiated the "left" commissars and adopted a resolution thanking the International Joint Board for its devotion to their interests and for the successful leadership of the strike.

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# The Economic Crisis In Italy

(A letter from Milan)

By L. S. I.

"IT is impossible to deny it, for official statistics provide the proof. At the end of 1926 the commercial balance sheet showed a deficit of seven billion, and January 1927 alone registered a deficit of one billion lire. Attempts are being made to spread the belief that there are a number of 'concealed assets' which would completely cover this deficit, such as for example remittances from emigrants, the profits from tourists, the freight dues of the merchant service, etc. But the facts are much less hopeful. Emigrants only remit during the first years of their absence, and since emigration to wealthy countries has long been stopped, remittances from this source are ever diminishing. The credit side of freight charges is largely exceeded by the debit. Tourists come less and less.

The commercial budget, in truth, has only been balanced latterly by means of American loans. The latest statistics mentioned a total of 160,000,000 dollars borrowed by the industries and public services of Italy. And that continues, so that debts are paid by debts, which is equivalent to the abyss. At the bottom of the abyss there is the grip of foreign creditors on the leading Italian industries. Motor-car factories in Italy are becoming garages for putting together American cars. The Italian electric power factories will become customers by compulsion to the American producers of electric machines, etc. And since in the years to come there will be no more loans to bank but redemption with interest to be paid, there is no need to be a prophet to foresee that the situation of Italy can only decline.

As a safeguard against such a future, Italy should reverse its policy; there should be retrenchment of expenditure (especially military) in order to reduce taxation; a halt in the restoration of the lira in order to be able to recover export trade (the silk industry is at its last gasp); a policy of high wages and much public work so as to check unemployment, by increasing through this double economic policy the purchasing power of the home market, etc. But all that would mean the end of Fascism, and since those guiding the economic life of Italy are by no means equal to their task, what they do is just the contrary. Fascist mentality, obstinate and limited in its view, dreams of being able to bend economic laws. Instead of restoring the situation by sweeping away all obstacles to production, the Italian government persists in forcing up the

lira and in forcing down wages. The idea is to stuff with illusions the small shareholders of the petty bourgeoisie and to play at showing the strong hand towards the working-class, even if that restricts exports and purchasing power at home even further. "After me the deluge!" was also the slogan of another tyranny.

## The Campaign to Break Down Wages

This campaign has for a few weeks past begun at Turin, Florence and Milan. Since Fascist trade unionism did not maintain the effort of red trade unionism to include in wages a cost-of-living bonus, the industrialists may say that they have not reduced wages; all they have done is to abolish virtually the cost-of-living bonus. In practice this means a reduction of 20 to 30 per cent on total remuneration.

And now only a few days ago, with a great flourish of publicity it was possible to make the peasants of Brescia in their turn accept a reduction of ten per cent. (The truth is that the announcement of this was given out to them at a meeting from the mouth of His Excellency, the Secretary of the Fascist Party. Let anyone oppose who dares!) The next day the government itself abolishes, or at least reduces by half or more, the cost-of-living bonus for all employees and all civil servants under the State or the public services.

And unemployment is increasing without a pause, even according to the official statistics. September, 1926, 89,414; October, 112,922; November, 118,821; December, 181,493; January, 1927, 223,246. During the same period the figure for "partial unemployment" has risen from 11,519 to 63,716. And these are only official figures, which would have to be doubled to get at the truth.

All this shows the utter bankruptcy of the policy inaugurated of his own free will by Mussolini with his speech at Pesaro. It is not realizing one of the aims which it set itself; it is merely serving the interests of the foreign creditors and of an ever narrower Italian oligarchy. Perhaps even in Italy this will soon be understood. Disquietude and Renewed Terrorism. The symptoms of a certain awakening can be seen. In many factories at Turin and in Milan leaflets printed or stenciled secretly are circulating more and more, and it is a pure falsehood to say that they emanate only from Communists. The young people in the universities are mixed up in them. On May-Day the police exerted itself in vain, without being able to catch the students responsible for sticking up little manifestoes and allegorical stamps, or to discover their secret meetings. And even the students' fathers are beginning to murmur. It is said that steps are being prepared to get rid of the Minister of finance, who is too weak in the estimation of Mussolini.

The heads of Fascism must know these facts better than inside or outside observers, for violent terrorism is beginning again. It seems that the deportation to the islands of hundreds of working-class and democratic leaders is no longer sufficient. A series of mysterious deaths has begun. The Fascist press of Milan itself has had to note fourteen cases of this kind, for which the police could not or would not give any information as to the cause of death. It is always a case of persons dead as a result of several dagger stabs or revolver shots. All these mysterious murders bear the mark of Fascism. At Savona a corpse was found drowned in the harbor with hands tied behind the back. At Parma the victim had been murdered, stripped and buried on the spot like Matteotti.

# Cloak Employer Reckoned Without Host

There still are some employers in the New York cloak market who appear to think that the Union is too busy fighting the Communists to take care of the interests of the workers.

The Moskovsky firm, of 25 West 30th Street, is a case in point. The firm employs from 13 to 14 operators regularly, but recently it decided to discharge some workers on the pretext that it lost business. The truth was, however, that it sent out its work to a non-union shop. A cutter and a sample maker were left inside the shop to

give the appearance of fair dealing and good intentions.

One of the pressers kept vigil outside the shop and detected that work was being sent out. He was forthwith discharged and, thereupon, the Organization Committee was ordered to call this shop on strike. It took only two days to teach this firm a proper trade-union lesson. The presser was reinstated and all the workers went back to their jobs. The firm was told to sign on the dotted line, and promised to live up to all union conditions.

## National Labor Health Conference

"American industry, which runs on the principle of the largest profits to the investor, figures even the protection of health and life in terms of cold cash, with the inevitable result that in this country 35,000 workers are killed each year and 2,500,000 are the victims of industrial accidents which can and must be prevented," states the Workers' Health Bureau in announcing final plans for Labor's First National Health Conference, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, June 18 and 19, at the Hotel Winton.

The opening address of the Conference will be made Saturday morning at 10 a. m. by James H. Maurer, President of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, and the Cleveland Federation of Labor will welcome the delegates.

The Conference has been arranged by the Workers' Health Bureau of America, 799 Broadway, New York City, a national organization with an affiliated membership of 190 labor bodies.

The first National Labor Health Conference is the signal that Labor is awake to the present frightful waste of life and limb and is organizing to demand protection.

Every trade union is asked to send delegates.

When the corpse arrived at the mortuary, there were wild scenes of protest. At Nosate (Milan) the dead man was found stripped, hidden in a wood and covered with many dagger and revolver wounds. Inquiries showed that the calibre of the revolvers used was the same as that of the regulation revolvers of the militia. Near Novara, a certain Morelli was so beaten with clubs that he died on the following day. It is the bankruptcy of legal terrorism, as Fascists appear to be no longer satisfied with it. Now that the economic crisis of the regime is inevitably causing protest or giving reason to fear that protest will be made, the criminal tendencies of the regime are running ahead of the law and striking without mercy. It is only at this price that it is possible to persuade the foreign lenders that they are investing their money well, while at home there is being pursued a disastrous policy whose results are beginning to appear.

## Raincoat Parleys Still Go On

Foreman of Bridgeport Struck Shop Leaves Town

The conference between the Waterproof Garment Workers Union, Local 20, and the newly formed manufacturers' association in the trade, which took place last Friday morning, June 10, did not complete its business yet. The employers, however, profess that they propose to aid in driving out the sub-standard contractor shops from the market and in making New York City the principal center for the raincoat industry.

The local, on the other hand, is willing to discuss terms of a collective agreement with this group, if this group can show enough earnestness to convince the workers that it proposes to place raincoat-making in New York on a solid union-shop footing.

Local 20 is meanwhile active in preparing for the renewal of agreements in the trade which expire on July 31. It is also working hard to win the strike in the Bick Bros. shop in Bridgeport, Conn., which ran away from New York in order to escape union conditions. It is reported that the foreman of that strike-bound shop has now been forced to leave it. It now appears more and more certain that the firm will soon come to the inevitable conclusion that the strike could only be terminated after peace with the workers had been made.

## TWO FLOWER DAYS TO AID DEBS MEMORIAL RADIO FUND

Several hundred members of the Young People's Socialist League will canvass the city Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, which have been fixed as "Flower Days" for the benefit of the Debs Memorial Radio Fund, 21 Union Square, which is raising \$250,000 to perpetuate the voice of Eugene V. Debs. The Yipsels, in addition, have taken out 1,000 subscription lists and they confidently expect to raise their quota of \$5,000 toward the fund.

While the Board of Trustees is waging a strenuous campaign to realize the \$250,000 quota as promptly as possible, it was pointed out that the Fund will be able to purchase a station with only a fraction of this sum. The rest of the funds will be used for expansion, operating expenses and for an eventual tie-up with a circuit of broadcasting stations to be operated by the labor movement throughout the country.

## JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
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MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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## EDITORIALS

### THE NEXT SEASON

The fall cloak season is at hand, and, as usual, few if any in the trade are in a position to predict a good or a bad season. The biggest garment industry in the world's biggest garment-making center, on which tens of thousands of families depend for their existence, thus, as always, starts another semi-annual active period like a vessel without a definite landing point, not knowing how short or long its cruise will be.

As always, it is the bewildering fluctuation of styles, which often last less than a fortnight, coupled with small-order production born of a fear of overproducing models of garments that might appear "old" before they reach the consumer, and the violently-competitive jobber-contractor system of work which ignores wholly the prime interests of the workers in the shops—that contribute to the appalling brevity of the work seasons. It is amidst such a babel of conflicting industrial factors and against such adverse and uncertain conditions that the cloakmaker has to begin each season his battle to secure a living for himself and his dependents, and to squeeze out of a hazardous season's earnings a few dollars to lay away for the inevitable lean months of the long "slack" that follows the short active spurt.

What will the next cloak season be?

Will it bring a little cheer to the families of the cloakmakers, after the last lean spring season which followed the disaster that the Communists brought down upon the cloak workers through their demagogic adventure of 1926, the ill-fated strike that kept thousands of them out of work for twenty-five weeks?

If the law of averages has any meaning or application in such a topsy-turvy industry like the cloak industry, the cloakmakers are entitled to a good season during this coming active work-period. The cloakmakers, for the past two and a half years, have had their share of misery. The past five seasons in the cloak industry, as far as the workers are concerned, were uniformly bad. Will the next season offer a breathing spell?

This question, we know, today is uppermost in the mind of every man and woman employed in the cloak shops, and it baffles no less the minds of the leaders of their organization. The cloakmakers' union, since it was organized, has had this all-important problem of the short work-season always on its hands. Every step it undertook, every issue it fought for from the day it was formed, directly or indirectly, had to do with this question of irregularity of employment, the short season and the long "slack" following it. The fight for a shorter work-day, for the inside shop, the demand for contractor limitation, the demand for the regularization of jobber production, unemployment insurance—all these aimed primarily toward making the cloakmaker's work-season a little longer and his earnings more commensurate with the minimum living budget of a worker's family.

There are, however, confounding factors in this industry, and the fashion factor is one of them, which, unfortunately, the union cannot undertake to overcome singlehanded, and which would require a far better organized and systematized general condition than what the cloak industry finds itself in today before they might be successfully tackled.

But, whatever the outcome of the next season, the cloakmakers who are now emerging from a period of disintegration and chaos, need, first and foremost, a strong union to fall back upon in order to get their feet planted firmly again on the ground. If the next season is tolerably good, and the workers in the shops regain a measure of their old confidence in themselves, it will be necessary to take advantage of this rise in morale to make the organization once again impregnable against attacks from within and without. Should the season, on the other hand, prove disappointing, the cloakmakers will surely need their union as a rallying point to which to turn for protection.

No matter what happens it is the union, and the union alone, that the cloakmaker may turn to with confidence to aid him in his battling for a decent living. For the workers in the cloak industry know that if the evil of the distressingly short seasons will ever be ameliorated or abolished, it will be done only through the steady pressure of a strong and constructively-minded union relentlessly fighting for their interests.

### KEEP ON ORGANIZING!

The proximity of the new season brings to the front another important task to the active elements in the cloak and dressmakers' organization, the need for reinforced organizing activity all along the line.

The big organization campaign, launched toward the end of

the last work-season in April, naturally had to slow down with the advent of "slack". With most of the shops either shut or working on fraction time, the big committee consisting of several hundred volunteers drafted from the various locals, was compelled to confine its efforts to educational activity such as conducting open forums, stimulating attendance at local and section meetings, distribution of literature on an unprecedented scale, and similar work.

It was splendid, worth-while work, fully compensated by the results. Thousands of members, who during the dark period of the Communist regime in the cloak and dress makers' union abstained from coming to union meetings, either from fear of intimidation or from sheer disgust with their charlatan trickery and filthy denunciation, are now flocking to discussion and business meetings, and are again taking part in the union's daily life. Union meetings, in the last few months, are again alive with union business instead of being perturbed by alien party politics.

But, as the shops are beginning to fill up, the big organization committee will have to turn its attention to its primary task, that of unionizing the neglected cloak and dress shops and of mopping up the scab nests which have multiplied to such an alarming extent in both trades while the Communist leadership was lording it over our workers.

There are hundreds of such shops in the cloak and dress industry, and these shops will have to be brought back under union control. But there is another organizing task of equal importance that faces not only our organizers but also the rank and file of the workers in the shops. It is the task of making the union shops one hundred per cent union in the best sense of the term. With the beginning of the work-season, each and every shop should at once have a meeting and become an active, vigilant unit of the whole organization. If there is a weak spot, a disruptive factor in any shop, the case should without delay be reported to headquarters, and the organizing committee should take immediate steps to strengthen that shop.

Above all, it is highly important that the rank and file establish unbroken contact between the shops and the offices of the union. The union must know everything that is going on in the shops, just as the workers should be kept constantly informed of what is going on in the union. The International Joint Board will carry out strictly its new policy with regard to such workers as still refuse to abandon the remnant of the Communist clique and still are taking orders from it. The Union will insist that only International members be employed in union shops, and will not permit any longer an insignificant minority of disrupters, or down-right scabs, to play the bosses' game in the shops at the behest of the discredited Communist politicians.

Within the next few months, the New York cloakmakers and dressmakers have it in their power to unionize their entire trade from end to end. The outlook for such a successful organizing campaign has not been as favorable in years. The cloakmakers and the dressmakers have only recently got rid of the miserable domination of the Communists, and have regained control of their own union. There is new life and genuine new vitality in the ranks of the cloak and dress workers, and this high morale, with a proper effort, can be spread to every disorganized and non-union nook and corner in the industry.

Let the slogan between now and the end of the fall season be—wherever cloak and dress makers congregate—at shop meetings, at discussion meetings, in union halls, at garment district corners: Organize, organize! Pour new energy, new inspiration into your activity! Work and make others work! Help willingly, freely, and others will join in realizing our great common task—to lift the union to its former commanding height in the industry.

### GREETINGS FROM GERMANY

The other day, a postal card from Germany brought to us, in a few lines, greetings from our fellow garment workers in that country.

It came from Brother Paul Munch, one of the editors of the "Bekleidungsarbeiter", the organ of the German Clothing Workers' Union. In it, Brother Munch asked us to send our paper, "Justice", regularly to the headquarters of the German needle workers' union as they "are very, very much interested in watching the progress in the reorganization of our Union after the fight against the Communist usurpers in New York."

But that is not all. Brother Munch further informs us: "The German Clothing Workers' Union had been in the same situation with regard to Communist domination and interference in trade union life a few years ago as you have been during recent months." The German needle workers, however, defeated the Communist adventure in their union, and they hope that the result of our organized resistance to Communist disruptive activity will achieve the same complete and satisfactory results.

Of course, this is not entirely new to us. We have known before that the German Communist machine, implicitly obedient to the Moscow International, had started a few years ago a campaign of malice and destruction among the powerful German trade unions, including the organization of the needle workers. This campaign of rule or ruin, like in our own country, succeeded for a time in weakening the German trade union movement and in splitting its ranks. But not for long. The German workers soon awoke to the terrible menace to which the Communist political jugglers had exposed their unions, and turned them out of power.

Small wonder the German needle workers are interested in our fight and are hoping for the speedy recovery of our union from the consequences of Communist infection. They have had a similar experience, and they are in a position to judge what a

## How Old, Oh, How Old!

The weekly "New Republic" recently printed an article which purports to be a new evaluation of the American labor movement. It aims to give an examination of that sturdy monster, to render a verdict and simultaneously to hazard a prophecy. Something else, however, came out of the effort. Let us see.

The "New Republic" critic begins his analysis with the discovery that organized labor is growing numerically. Steel, automobile, and electrical appliance industries, all basic and Big Capital industries, are still unorganized. Moreover, the unions are losing ground even in the organized trades. The bituminous coal fields are getting out from under the control of the United Mine Workers.

Which sound like a sure-footed argument, indeed. But not altogether unanswerable, as the writer in the "New Republic" himself proceeds to explain. The obstacles which the labor movement is meeting with in America are enormous. America is in the grip of a capitalist oligarchy, though not of a dictatorship kind, that might provoke a mobile mass protest movement. It is "capitalist culture" that has the country at its mercy, the dominant capitalist Weltanschauung that starves not only the union movement but contaminates every other liberal and progressive trend of thought. The economic and industrial status of the country provides a sterile soil for the trade union message. Productivity is continually increasing in industry, and as it grows apace it affords the employers a possibility to level earnings upward even without the stimulating pressure on the part of the unions. Far-sighted employers are also "beating the union to it" in other matters. They are seeking to eliminate grievances; they even are shortening the workday; they are introducing old-age and sick pensions; they are organizing "welfare" work—including some illusory forms of "factory management." All this, naturally, handicaps the trade unions immensely.

The writer in the "New Republic" isn't blind to these conditions. What is, therefore, his grievance?

The labor movement is not creating new ideas. The old trade unionism has weighed anchor, and is making no progress. A new trade unionism *could* make headway. And what is this new trade unionism?

Says the writer: There is a section in the American labor movement that is showing itself susceptible to new ideas. The railroad shop men, for instance, are making an effort to develop "union-management co-operation." Whatever other new paths the trade unions have tried they seem to be invariably successful: labor banks, workers' education, life insurance, etc. The natural inference from this would be, then, if we just take the writer's own facts, that the new trade unionism is here, right within the framework of the old. The "New Republic" writer thus successfully demolishes his own grievance, but still he goes on.

The labor movement is entirely too inert. New ideas in it are but spotty, but on the whole the field is still stony for new thoughts to pro-

The "New Republic" Chides the Labor Movement)

By HARRY LANG

per in. He concludes that, as compared with the world-war period and the post-war days, the labor movement is stagnant. A social revival was then in the offing, and it looked as if that revival would arrive through the labor movement. The workers' movement then was truly a social movement. Today it is an old vested institution, with a limited sphere of action, a planet following a greater planet, trawling behind capitalism rather than an independent center of self-generating energy.

Yet all this would have sounded a great deal more convincing but for the fact that we have heard similar criticism of the self-same labor movement in the days when that movement, according to the writer, was truly a "social movement." Good heavens, how familiar all this sounds! Yes, the same critic'sm, employing

the same phraseology, the same complaint and the same verdict, with one exception.

The writer in the "New Republic" is a sort of apologetic. Evidently he is not in a mood to gloat over what he terms the "stagnation" of the trade unions, and that, to a great extent, explains the whole attitude of the liberal intelligentsia toward the trade union movement. In brief, it is as follows:

The labor movement is needed as a force and a factor that would widen the ramifications of modern industry and of modern industrial society. We need new ideals in production, greater profits, greater earnings for workers, greater leisure, but that is not enough. Our increased material prosperity must have an aim, it must increase life's values and life's happiness. Quantitative prosperity alone is not sufficient; there must be qualitative improvement all along the line. The national life must rise to a higher plane, spiritually as well as materially. And the workers' movement is the force to bring that about.

True and fine. But that is the view-

point and the goal of the labor movement today. It is the sum and substance of nearly every public speech and statement made by William Green who speaks for that movement today; it speaks through the editorial columns of the worthwhile labor press, and it is, on the whole, subscribed to by the very same leaders of American labor, whom the "New Republic" would have abdicate to make room for "new leaders"—from somewhere. And it is not mere lip service, either, but is a conscious attempt eventually to reconstruct industry for social and not for private profiteering purposes.

To sum up: The positive side of the "New Republic" article adds no ammunition to the labor movement's arsenal; its negative side is old, dreadfully old. Castigations of this kind had been hurled at the labor unions for several decades by socialists and radicals of every hue and variety, and by bourgeois intellectuals is no less a degree.

To such of its critics as continually upbraid the trade unions for lack of "creative ideas", the trade unions themselves might suggest a little more "creativity" in their criticism. As it is today this criticism runs the risk of being labeled unpardonably stale, almost archaic.

## Chicago Dressmakers Under Communist Rule

A Correspondence from Chicago

By MEYER TERRY  
(Local 100, Ledger 2535)

As a dressmaker and member of Local 100, Chicago dressmakers, and as an old, good-standing member, I want to describe to the readers of "Justice" in detail the doings and activities of this local.

The entire membership of our International, which always faithfully backed and helped Local 100 in its struggles, are entitled to know it. They should know the situation we are in today, under the control of the present Communist administration. I want to give you the true facts of what is going on in and about the union shops, the organization department, and all the activities of our administration, which nobody can deny.

I was present at the Joint Board sessions last month, when President Sigman was in Chicago, where Ida Rubenstein and Levin, and others, tried to convince him of all the good things they have brought about in the Chicago dress industry, but they got to mention about shops falling out of the Union, shops that were union shops for years. What happened with the shop of "Mon", that signed an agreement with the Union in March, 1926, which was to expire March, 1927? This shop has not been a union shop since June, 1926. This is a small shop, employing only eight operators. These workers were all good Union members and helped the Union to organize the place. When I raised this question at the local meeting sometime in October, they answered, "The element was not good".

What happened with David Perlman's shop, where about 125 dress workers are employed? Perlman signed an agreement in March, 1926,

expiring March, 1927. It is true, this shop never was a perfect union shop, but the Union had a good foothold there and Perlman feared the Union, and when he signed in 1926, there was good hope for improvement in this shop. If the proper attention would be given, isn't it a fact that in April, 1926, manager Levine reported to the Joint Board about this shop, trying to discredit the old officials for not having enforced a one-hundred per cent union control? He promised to make a good union shop of Perlman's shop. So did organizer Davidson. Isn't it a fact that in 1926 the Union, through Dolnick and myself, succeeded to an extent in reorganizing this shop by reinstating about twenty operators, and when Levin took office, there were union people working in this shop? Isn't it true that Levin visited this shop a few times, had a conference with the employer, and the latter told him that he was not a union organizer, and if he wanted all the workers to join the Union, he would not interfere? How about it today? A real, honest-to-goodness scab shop. Again their answer is: "The element is not good".

What about Max Groner's dress shop? Groner's shop, employing about 18 to 20 operators, was organized in 1923, and when the strike was called in 1924, all went down and were on strike for fifteen weeks. This shop was settled by Perlstein through a "gentleman's agreement", and though not having any signed agreement, remained a fairly good union shop and all the workers were members of the Union. All disputes between the workers and the employer were adjusted through the Union. The union standards of a 90 cent average for operators, a dollar for pressers, and \$22 a week for finishers, prevailed. These conditions existed in the shop until the present "progressive" administration gained control and for some unknown reason, this shop, with most of the old workers still working there, is today a scab shop. The answer of the Union officials is again: "The element is not good".

What about the Strand Dress Co.? This shop employed about forty workers, almost all colored, all members of the Union. Again under the claim

"the element was no good", this shop was lost to the Union and is existing as a non-union shop.

These shops represent a loss of over 200 members to our local, to say nothing of the loss of prestige to our local. While an ounce of prevention could have saved these shops, our officers were, and still are busy "revolutionizing" the class struggle within the Union against the Union.

And now, what about the union shops? The R. & H. Dress Co., employing 25 operators and about forty workers in its own factory and in a few non-union contracting shops signed an agreement in March, 1926, to last until March, 1927. This shop also makes cloaks during the spring season in an outside shop. The conditions in this shop are such that Ida Rothstein, who worked there for several weeks, would not remain. No more dress shops for her, she declared, cloak shops were more comfortable, and there was more money in it besides. The workers in this shop paid no dues for about a year and the officers never forced them to pay dues. Two weeks ago, 21 operators were reinstated at the rate of \$2.00 each, which also made good their assessment. The officers in this shop do not belong to the Union at all, and according to information received, the employer refuses to negotiate further with the Union, as there no longer is any agreement. The manager is silent about this. This shop already is 95 per cent lost for the Union and our officers are doing absolutely nothing to win it back.

What about the Jay-Dee Garment Co.? I have worked in this shop for about a year and a half. It was a good union shop. I was chairman there for about a year. Then, even the slowest operator earned at least 90 cents per hour, and now \$2.15 is a good week's pay for a fast operator. Prices, that used to be settled in accordance with union standards, were reduced with the consent of our office. It is a fact that in the early part of the month of July, when I was still working in this shop, we succeeded, after a stoppage of a day and a half, in settling a garment for \$2.25. After I left the place in August, the same garment was reduced, first to \$2.30, then to \$2.10, and finally to \$1.90. This made it impossible to earn a decent wage. Later, when I asked this employer for my old job, he replied that I, and not the Union, was responsible. (Continued on page 7)

price a trade union, even as well organized as the German clothing workers' union was, has to pay when it allows itself to become a trailer after a political bandwagon.

We, on the other hand, may draw from the experience of our German comrades, and from the brief comradely greetings of Bro. Munch, sustained faith in the eventual restoration of our union to full health and strength, and the added hope that the day of complete triumph over the malevolent Communist adventurers in our industries is near, very near at hand.





## EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



### Workers' Education and the Workshop

An Experiment in the Building Trades

By WILLIAM G. HABER

Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin

THERE is no unanimity of opinion as to what workers' education ought to include. Most classes devote all of their time to a discussion of such matters as are found in elementary economic courses in colleges. The subjects do not fit sufficiently into the experiences of the workers, and the discussion is not of the type which stimulates thinking. To remedy this situation, some courses in general economics given in classes for workers concentrate on a discussion of those phases which are of particular interest to the labor group: some discussing wages; others unemployment and similar topics.

While the advantages derived from a study and discussion of such problems are many, the limitations are that few of the problems touch the real experience of the men in the class. The subject is still too "intellectual." The instructor's interest in it is still too academic.

Last year the Milwaukee Workers' College\* began an experiment with one particular group of workers by studying the problems of its own industry. The class in railroad problems was the first attempt. This year a class in Building Trades' Labor Problems has been organized in Milwaukee and another in Madison. This arrangement enables a discussion of those problems which are a part of the everyday experience of the workers and union officials.

The class in Milwaukee, for example, is composed of 18 building trades' union workers. About ten trades are represented. Six of the 18 members are business agents. The rest are either of the 'rank and file' or executive board members of local union secretaries. For instance, the business agent and two members of the executive board of the Electrical Workers' Union attend the class.

With a homogeneous group of this character, all members of one industry, all beset with the same problems, it is possible to carry on an educational program having a very definite purpose. The purpose here adopted was to help the union officials and workers to comprehend more fully the economics of their particular industry. The belief is that the old type of union leader in the building trades who relied primarily on force and bluff is fast disappearing from the picture, and the successful trade union official has to be a trained negotiator and bargainer. As such he has three important groups with whom he comes in direct contact: his own members, the employers, and the public. To succeed with each he must possess the facts of the industry. This need is met through a discussion of those problems intimately related with the work of the members.

Take, for example, the problem of seasonal unemployment. The class was not interested primarily in unemployment in general, but in seasonal unemployment, because in the

\* The Milwaukee Workers' College is now six years old and has had classes in public speaking, parliamentary law, general economics reading with a purpose, railroad economics, and building trades labor problems.

building trades' workers this kind of unemployment is the most serious. In discussing this problem with the Madison class we discovered that we were totally ignorant of its amount and could not measure how it affected the workers' yearly income. We studied the problem from all angles, its importance to building trades' workers, its effect upon union problems, the conditions in this industry which make the problem what it is, and finally the efforts that have been made both by labor and the employers to solve it. The members realized the significance of this discussion, for in 1921 the Madison building trades had gone through a costly lockout on the question of a wage decrease. The issue in an arbitration proceeding which followed turned on the number of days worked per year. The Arbitration Board was not interested in the hourly or daily wage but in the yearly wage. Here the unions were at sea. They had no figures. They had no basis upon which to make their arguments before the Board.

When we finished the discussion of seasonal unemployment a committee was appointed to consult with the instructor for the purpose of establishing permanent unemployment records in every building trade union in Madison. Such records are now being installed and the Madison building trades' unions will hereafter have reliable information.

The Milwaukee class had a similar experience. In a discussion of union strength we tried to find out how effectively the building trades in Milwaukee were organized. We wanted to know the total number of workers in the industry. The guesses, each one made by business agents who have been in the industry in that city from ten to thirty-five years, ranged from 28,000 to 22,000 workers. The difference of opinion led to the appointment of a committee of three business agents to make a survey. It found that there were between 10,000 and 11,000 building trades' workers in Milwaukee. The officials were amazed at the figure, and confessed that they had always calculated on the basis of the larger figure. In this connection, one member was appointed for each trade to obtain data on the number of workers, the percentage organized, the strength of the contractors' association, the obstacles which have stood in the way of organizations, etc. These reports come back to the class and result in a purposeful discussion.

In a like manner other problems are presented, and practical application made wherever possible. Take, for example, so important a subject as jurisdictional disputes. One has only to observe the state of mind of officials who attend the class when jurisdictional disputes are mentioned to realize its importance. At one time the instructor mentioned a particular jurisdictional dispute, and, in the discussion which followed, the question of amalgamation of the two unions came up. The business agent of one of these unions was a member of the class. At no time since that discussion has he been absent from the class, for he could not afford to miss any part of the discussion. The first obstacle to any discussion of the subject lay in the fact that each official thought this would be an opportunity to state his case, rather than an opportunity for the class to examine the entire question in a constructive manner.

### William Mann Fincke

Address Delivered at the Memorial Services at the Community Church, Park Avenue and 34th Street, Tuesday, January 7th, at 8:30 P. M.

By FANNIA M. COHN

It is easy to deceive adults as to one's feelings and intentions; it is almost impossible to deceive children. A child instinctively feels a person, at once appreciates one who is sincere and loves him. Perhaps better than anything else, this describes the personality of William Fincke—children loved him as he loved them; children flocked about him as soon as they met him; they called him Daddy. The hundreds of children who came to Pioneer Youth Camp loved Bill Fincke and felt at home with him. As long as he was on his farm where Pioneer Youth Camp was, the children did not long for their parents.

It was to be expected that Bill Fincke would love children—one who loves humanity loves children. But the children were not alone in their feeling for him. Men and women, too, flocked about him, finding in him a friend and a comrade. It was his flow of human kindness, his vitality, his cheerfulness that attracted to him all who came to know him.

But his personality is not entirely expressed in his love of human kind. He was, too, the American free lance, the best expression of the free searching spirit, always so welcome to everyone. He knew no bounds; he was not controlled by parties, by rules or regulations. Always eager to find an outlet for his fine emotions, he translated them into ideas and endeavored to experiment with them. This was exemplified in his connection with the establishment of Brookwood and Manumit School.

We, the members of Pioneer Youth Camp Committee, are especially grateful to Mr. Fincke for having made it possible for us to establish our first camp in the most beautiful surroundings by offering us a part of his grounds. He and Helen Fincke, his wife and comrade who supported him in all his endeavors, were among the first members of our camp committee. Pioneer Youth will never forget their active assistance.

I find it difficult to express in any words our regret over this great loss. It is especially painful to think now when human skill is finding it possible to subdue the elements—to cross the Atlantic in a comparatively few hours—that medical science is unable

to save a precious life, still in the midst of activity. His disease was known, but there was no cure for it.

Some men, I believe, can be immortal—such ones as possess fine intellectual and spiritual meaning, inspiring idealism. William Fincke was one of these. The life of such a man does not end with his death. The work he started for human progress goes on. It is perhaps the greatest tribute to William Fincke that the institutions he helped to found, the movements he supported are being carried on though he has left them. There is additional tribute, we feel, in that those who knew William Fincke will continue to hold his memory dear, and will be inspired to further effort by his life and humane spirit.

### PIONEER YOUTH WILL OPEN NEW CAMP ON JUNE 26

The new Pioneer Youth Camp at Rifton, N. Y., is ideally situated, with its new buildings looking out upon a natural lake, amidst hilly, rolling country.

Its athletic field, tennis and workshop are all ready to receive the children. Registration will probably close within a week. A new feature is the Junior Division for smaller children under the supervision of specially trained directors who will give them special attention needed by the younger folks.

Children of international members are given special rates. For further information apply to L. L. G. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th Street, New York City, Chelsea 9530.

### ART SCHOOL'S FREE COURSES FOR WORKERS

The Educational Alliance Art School announces summer courses at Jefferson St. and East Broadway. The fee is \$4 for the summer for adults. Children are admitted free and are supplied materials without charge. The school offers instruction in drawing, painting, decorative design and woodcarving to students of promise.

Any members of the L. L. G. W. interested in the work of the school for themselves or their children should obtain an application for admission, or seek further information, from the Workers' Art Scholarship Committee, 175 East Broadway.

Recent alliances between the building contractors, bankers, and business interests, as they exist in Milwaukee, Detroit, San Francisco and other open-shop building trade cities.

The entire aim of the classes in building trades' problems is to provide the workers and officials with the facts of the industry and to make a practical application of these facts. The writer feels that Workers' Education can be most profitable if it is directly related to their daily problems, that labor history and economics can best be taught through specific problems which affect a specific group of workers, and that the value of the course to them will be measurably increased if they are permitted to participate in gathering some of the data.



## With the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board

By BEN MOSER,  
Secretary-Treasurer

A meeting of the Joint Board was held on Friday, June 10, 1927, at the International, 3 West 16th Street.

Chairman—Brother B. Kaplan.

### Managers' Reports:

Brother Nagler, Manager of the Industrial Council Department, reports that he still is not in a position to give the exact number of workers, according to trade, who suffered through the "reorganization" which was permitted the "inside" manufacturers of the Industrial Council. Bro. Nagler expects to be able to give this information by the 15th of June.

Bro. Nagler reports further, that workers of several shops have been complaining that they have been discharged unjustly. Some of these cases are being taken up with the Association.

Brother Nagler's report is approved.

General Manager Hochman reports that the Union is on the alert to see that the manufacturers do not take undue advantage of the privilege of "reorganization" which was given them by the "lefts". The Union is looking carefully into every case and some of them are being taken up with the Association.

Brother Hochman also reports that many workers, until now unregistered, are registering with the International.

With regard to Benjamin Levy's shop, Brother Hochman reports that the firm was forced to settle with the Union, granting all our demands, after the Union made it impossible for them to get their work done in "outside" and non-union shops.

The firm of Gordon V. Lyons has joined the Merchants Ladies' Garment Association.

Brother Hochman also reports that a conference took place between the Union and the Industrial Council Association, at which very important arrangements were made for the maintenance of Union conditions in the Union shops and for the unionization of non-union shops.

Very shortly the Union expects to confer with the Jobbers' Association and with the American Association.

The Union expects to call strikes against all manufacturers and jobbers that have not yet signed agreements with the Union.

Brother Hochman declares that after a great deal of hardship, and despite the difficulties which the Communists placed in our way, the International has succeeded in freeing Brother Pigowitz from prison and we expect shortly to be able to do the same for the other imprisoned cloakmakers who were sent to jail by the Communists. This information called forth a storm of applause from the delegates.

Sister Fannia Cohn appeals to the delegates to participate in the reopening of Unity House.

### Board of Directors:

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, June 8, 1927, at the International.

Chairman—Brother Reiff.

### Committees:

A committee of Brothers Shlackman and Ph. Zeit, workers of Freed Bros., 520 5th Avenue, informed the Board of Directors that seven workers in their shop were discharged. The firm claimed that the reason for the discharge was that they had that privilege according to the agreement. According to the workers' opinion

the firm had no right to discharge them as they were union men and they requested the Directors to take up their case and reinstate them.

After a lengthy discussion the case was referred to the office.

### Managers' Reports:

Brother Nagler, Manager of the Industrial Council Department, reports that Harris Bros. & Namm, 529 7th Avenue, insisted upon reorganizing their entire factory, but after a conference with this firm, through the Industrial Council, it was agreed that the firm was to send down only as many workers as they are entitled according to the agreement. The above firm also paid those workers who were sent down one week's salary and the workers who remained in the shop levied a tax upon themselves to the amount of \$75.00 to each member that left the shop.

Brother Nagler further reports that he insisted that the Industrial Council should not drag out the reorganization not later than to about the 15th of June.

He also states that in order that his office should be fully informed about the reorganization that is taking place in the shops, he sent out a letter to all shop chairmen of the Industrial Council asking them to keep him informed of all developments in this matter.

Bro. Nagler also reports that in a number of shops where non-registered workers were sent away, most of these workers immediately came to the office and applied for membership in the Union.

Brother Perlmutter, Manager of the American and Independent Departments, reports that he is constantly busy with many of the independent shops where the firms have the idea that they have the right to reorganize their factories according to the agreement that we have with the Association. In almost every case he informed the manufacturers that they have no right to discharge their workers under the pretense of reorganization.

He also reports that T. Kilpatrick, intended to reduce the number of operators from 27 to 14. The union decided not to permit the firm to reorganize the factory. Recently the firm again insisted upon the reorganization and the office again informed T. Kilpatrick that the union will not permit them to do so. The case was adjusted satisfactorily to the union. The firm also discharged all those workers who were not members of the International Union.

The firm of L. Moshkowsky discharged one of the workers and after the shop was declared on strike for a short time the firm agreed to reinstate the worker and the shop was sent back to work.

Brother Fried, Manager of the Organization Department, reports that the demonstration that was held last Monday morning in the cloak and dress districts was successful, and it proved that the International has won fully in the present fight with the deposed Communists.

Brother Fried also reports that the Organization Committee is very active, and they are carrying on their agitation among the cloak and dressmakers in the market, and they are also carrying on their active organization work among the non-union shops.

Brother Hochman, General Manager, then gave a review to the Board of Directors of the present situation in the industry.

## Success of Open Forums Grows

Attendance Increases at All Discussion Meetings

Next week begins the sixth week of the regular daily open forum propaganda, carried on under the auspices of the Organization Committee of the New York Joint Board. The open forums have proved a success from every viewpoint. The interest of the cloakmakers and dressmakers in these discussion meetings is continually increasing, while the attendance is becoming larger and larger.

The open forums are genuine democratic gatherings, where cloakmakers and dressmakers, without regard to party or political views, discuss union matters and state their opinions without fear of abuse or mistreatment. Small wonder the open forums have become so popular among the masses during the short period of their existence. The forums will be retained until the very end of the slack season.

The discussion leaders of last week were Brothers Sterman, Moser, Gutterman and Dembitzer. Next week the forum will be addressed by Brothers S. Farber, B. Moser, Vice-President Mollie Friedman, and Brother P. Dembitzer.

Beginning this week there will also be section forums in Brownsville, the Bronx and downtown. This work will be continued during the season period in order to give our workers an opportunity each Sunday to take up union matters at these free meetings arranged in places most convenient for them.

## THREE SECTION MEETINGS OF LOCAL 22, THURSDAY, JULY 7

The recent success of the two section meetings of the dressmakers' local, No. 22, has encouraged the administration of the local to increase the number of section meetings from two to three. The next three section meetings, accordingly, will be held on Thursday, July 7, and they are expected to attract a very large attendance.

The meetings, which will be devoted exclusively to trade and local problems, will be held in the following places: Bronx—McKinley Square Garden, 1258 Boston Road; Downtown—Beethoven Hall; Brownsville—Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman Street. All meetings will begin at 7:30 sharp.

### WORKERS' UNITY HOUSE

Our Unity House is a source of inspiration. Its grandeur can always be enjoyed, no matter how often one may have visited the place. Art and beauty are always thrilling. So our Unity House is always a place where young and old, men and women, should come for renewal of courage and a strengthening of their faith in the achievement of the ultimate aims of the organized Labor Movement.

## In the Chicago Dressmakers Union

(Continued from Page 5)

responsible for the high prices overpaid on settled garments. As far as the Union was concerned, the reductions were permissible. I was politely told that I could not have my job back. It hurts to hear the workers complain that there no longer is any union protection.

What about Anabel Lorraine Dress Co.? How are prices and general union control in this shop? What

## Sample Maker Resigns from 'Left' Local 3 Board

Simon Domblatt, for many years a member of Local 3, who was active for some time past in "left" activities, going to the extent of becoming a member of the "left executive board" of the samplemakers' local, has resigned from the Communist outfit and made a public statement to that effect. It reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned executive member of the 'left' executive board of Local 3, hereby state that I have resigned from the above 'local', and have decided to register with the International Union, Local 3. My doing this, I hope, will settle any controversy that might arise in the shop of Faber & Hein. As a member, I pledge to be loyal to the I. L. G. W. U."

## "THE GRAND STREET FOLLIES"

By one of those curious chances, the geography of New York changes and we find the "Grand Street Follies" no longer playing on the street they made famous but in an alien sector on West Forty-Fourth Street. The removal, made imperative by the falling fortunes of the Neighborhood Playhouse after years of interesting experiment, is likely to make the Neighborhood Playhouse Company a permanent fixture on Broadway, which will be a great and good thing. That slightly amateur spirit which invades the company accounts for a deal of spontaneity and vitality which ought to serve as leaven to the doughy musical shows in the vicinity.

However, the "Grand Street Follies," now at the Little Theatre in their fifth annual edition, are not sure-fire in every number. Weighted down almost excessively with parodies on current successes in the theatre, they strain perceptibly for caricature and satirical take-off. The result is only a fairly amusing evening in the theatre. By far the outstanding performance is given by Dorothy Sands, impersonating Laura Hope Crews as the octopus-mother of "The Silver Cord." Her version of Jane Cowl in "The Road to Rome" is also excellent. Albert Carroll's interpretation of John Barrymore is, of course, familiar and, because of it, it did not prove so exciting. But he makes a hit as Mayor Walker.

Where the numbers depart from parodies on the theatre, the results are not even so fortunate. A burlesque on the Ford-Shapiro controversy, some buffoonery at the expense of Elinor Glyn, and several other numbers suffer from being too heavy-footed. But our readers are urged to support the current bill in order to pave the way for future artistic opportunities such as brought forth the "Dybbuk" and a dozen other first-rate things at the Neighborhood Playhouse.

Richard Rohman

about Hecht-Dubow's? What about Hyman Bros.? Isn't it true that this firm works under two agreements, an original and a supplementary? As far as the finishers are concerned, there is no such thing as a union scale of \$25 per week, and as for the operators, are their earnings as high as they were two or three years ago, at the close of the strike? The workers themselves will answer: No!

(To be continued)

# The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

In spite of the heat and the half-holiday declared by the City of New York on Monday last, June 13, the cutters packed that night Arlington Hall to capacity to take part in discussions on the many questions touched upon in reports of the manager and of the executive board. Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Joint Board, delivered a rousing talk to the cutters on the progress the union has made in its work of reconstruction, which was frequently interrupted by prolonged applause.

## Cutters Respond to Call

The theme of Hochman's address was the steady headway which the International is making to rehabilitate the union. "In their effort to secure control of the union," the general manager said, "the Communists are offering employers all sorts of inducements so that members of the International may be discriminated against. They not only suggest but have actually offered the bosses longer hours of work, piece work and the letting down of other barriers which the employers have for years tried to get, but never attained."

Nevertheless, Hochman went on, because of the International's control of the situation, the assistance offered by the "revolutionists" to the bosses to wipe out union conditions proved a fiasco. The membership realized that their salvation lay in their loyalty to the parent body. He cited the instance of the strike which the union conducted against Benjamin Levy, a cloak shop. This firm at first refused to heed the offers of the union for a proper settlement. But that portion of the workers in that shop who considered themselves "lefts" finally realized that only the International was in a position to save their jobs, and accordingly registered. After the strike had lasted some weeks, the firm asked the union for a settlement and sought to sign an agreement upon terms that would exclude the former non-registered workers. These workers, however, having now registered with the International, were given the protection to which all members are entitled. The final settlement resulted in all the workers returning to work without discrimination.

In closing, Hochman declared that he was confident that the cutters would continue in the forefront of the present reconstruction work of the union.

## Effect of "Left" Settlement Reacts on Traitors

When, as a result of the Communist mismanagement of the last general strike, the agreement gave the employers three chances for ten per cent "reorganizations," the Communists little dreamed that they were creating a double-edged sword. Manager Dubinsky in his addresses to the cutters during the strike often told the members that only unquestioned loyalty to their organization may save them from the ill effects of the "left" misconduct of the strike.

This admonition has thus far been amply borne out. With the coming of June the members of the Industrial Council started to exercise their right to a ten per cent "reorganization." So far, however, the manager of the Joint Board, Bro. Hochman, told our members at the meeting, that the clause affected but a very small number of loyal members.

The number of cutters affected thus far is also negligible.

Dubinsky added that, following his review with the officers of the Industrial Council of the discharges, the number of cutters affected by

the discharge clause was kept down to a very low figure. He experienced the biggest problem in an independent shop, which was not affected by the ten per cent "reorganization," and which for a number of years has conducted an exceptionally large cutting department. Recently its business was cut down so heavily that it was compelled to rent out half of its loft and to decrease its working staff accordingly. Through the efforts of the office two extra men were placed to work, while those affected by the "reorganization" received three weeks' compensation.

Isidore Nagler, manager of the Protective and Samuel Perlmutter, manager of the Independent departments of the Joint Board, in discussing the activities of the union in connection with the present "reorganization" period, declared that the union has done a great deal to help the members of the union to secure jobs. They spent a good deal of time in the shops of some of the large firms with the result that practically no loss in jobs resulted for the cutters.

## Dress Cutters to Conduct Drive

A considerable part of the meeting was devoted to a report on the situation affecting the dress cutters. In his opening remarks on the situation Brother Dubinsky said that, during the period that the Communists were in charge of the Union, the seasonal organization drives in the dress trade were very much neglected.

In the past the Union through these seasonal drives always resulted in the unionization of a number of shops that compensated for the number of union shops that had gone out of business. But for the past few seasons the Communists neglected this work. They depended upon all sorts of wild schemes. One of these was the issuing of the famous "yellow passports." During the cloak strike, dress workers employed in union shops received passes. The "lefts" trusted that by the process of eliminating union members they would organize the non-union workers who were not in possession of the passes.

Plans are being worked out to organize a considerable number of dress cutters pending the arrival of the busy season. The drive contemplated by the International naturally must wait for a better time, that is, for the busy season. Until then, Dubinsky urged the dress cutters to aid the office in organizing the cutters of the large "open" shops. Since the union-smashing work was begun by the Communists, the large non-union dress shops badly started to introduce old pre-union cutters in their cutting rooms. Within two weeks or so the organization work will be started. In the meantime dress cutters are urged to keep in daily contact with the office where they will be advised how to proceed in this work. Last season considerable work in this direction was accomplished just in this manner, that is, by daily contact with the office. And with a slightly greater expenditure of energy there is no reason why conditions in the "open" dress shops should not be considerably improved.

# What the Cutters Should Read in the "History of Local 10"

The "History of Local 10" by James Oneal, recently published, has been distributed to the members. It not only is a history of twenty-five years of work and achievements by a union, the membership of which is largely composed of immigrants, but it is the story of the development of a trade union; of the development of an industry, and a record of the struggles waged by this union.

There are those of the members of Local 10 who may find it impossible for some reason or other to go through the entire book in one sitting but who, nevertheless, are anxious to be acquainted with its high lights and important incidents. For this reason each week there will be given in these columns vivid extracts from each of the leading chapters

In the past few issues there was reprinted in these columns a summary of the early growth of the United Cloak and Suit Cutters. A jurisdictional dispute of considerable proportions arose thru the existence of three cutters' organizations — the United Cloak and Suit Cutters, which received its charter from the International in 1902, the Manhattan Knife Cutters, which was also chartered by the International in 1900, and the Gotham Knife Cutters. This problem was solved by the election of delegates of the various organizations to the Joint Board, at which the three organizations were represented. The reader then turns to Chapter 4 on Page 57 and continues under the heading, "Local 6 and Gotham Unite".

"We may now turn to a consideration of other phases of this period. It is a peculiar fact that while the Gotham Knife Cutters never became a powerful organization it survived the economic distress of 1894-1895 when the suit cutters expired as an organization. Its members were largely cutters employed in the cutting of men's shirts, ladies' wrapper and underwear. As it was the only union of cutters the cloak and suit cutters who were without a union joined it. But the field to cover was too large for the Gothamites and as soon as conditions were favorable, as related in the preceding chapter, the cloak and suit cutters organized in 1901. It is for this reason that the names of 'old timers' like John C. Ryan, Andrew J. Smith and Charles Serrington will be found in the records of both organizations as active members and officials.

"The wage rate obtained by members of the Gotham Knife Cutters was less than that obtained by Local 6 and it is claimed that the Manhattan Knife Cutters received even less. Cloak and suit cutters also had more stable seasons and received better compensation for overtime. No record survives of the Manhattan Knife Cutters and what is known of its history is found in the records of its negotiations with and communications to the other two locals in this period of controversy and some data that appear in convention proceedings. Even this information is fragmentary and certainly insufficient to present any connected story of its history. The Manhattan cutters were definitely Socialist in aim. In the International convention of 1902 Manhattan introduced a resolution the final clause of which was a resolve that the convention 'declare that the time has arrived for the workmen of this country to organize themselves as a class politically on a platform voicing the interests of labor as a class for the purpose of restoring the United States to the people for the United States; the country to be col-

lectively owned and controlled by all and for the benefit of all the people.' Although crudely expressed, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

"Reporting to the convention of 1903, Nathan Ross, delegate of the Manhattan Knife Cutters, said that his local 'was formed principally for the purpose of educating the great mass of cutters working on the East Side of New York, who were unacquainted with the trade labor movement, and who were compelled to work at the poorest and lowest possible wage'. As rapidly as these cutters were educated, he continued, they were 'turned over to the other two cutters' organizations' according to the particular branch of the industry for which they were adapted. The Manhattan cutters had 'experienced great difficulties and at one time had only five members' but that 'a strict policy in regard to lapsed and suspended members was gradually building up the organization' which consisted then of 95 members.

"In 1901 the Manhattan cutters were involved in a jurisdiction dispute with the Shirt, Waist and Laundry Workers' International Union. This organization objected to Manhattan taking in shirt cutters. Although a majority of Manhattan's members were shirt cutters the local willingly surrendered its claim to them as the International had agreed to give jurisdiction to the Laundry Workers' International over this class of cutters. Herman Grossman, delegate of the International to the A. F. of L. Convention in 1902, reported that while claiming jurisdiction over the Manhattan shirt cutters the Laundry Workers' International had refused a charter to these cutters. Grossman's resolution of protest in the A. F. of L. was adopted by that body. S. Perlmutter, delegate of the Manhattan cutters to the International convention of 1901, reported that only a few suit cutters were left to the local after this decision regarding shirt cutters. Manhattan then decided to concentrate on the East Side cloak cutters. The Manhattan members engaged in this missionary work are all competent mechanics and \$24 men," said Perlmutter, and then added that Local 6 did not permit 'Manhattan men to work in shops controlled by it, although the latter receive the standard scale.' He urged the convention to give consideration to these problems.

"Delegate Perlmutter presented a resolution which was considered at the third session of this convention. It declared that as Local 6 'has always forced out cutters belonging to our local from the shops it controlled' and asserted it would continue to do so, and considering that the Manhattan Knife Cutters, Local 17, had joined the International at its inception and had always paid its per capita tax, it therefore urged that 'any union man in good standing in his local, working under the jurisdiction of the I. L. G. W. U., shall not be molested by any other local or individual member of another local affiliated with the International, provided he receives the standard salary of the house he is employed by.'"

# Miscellaneous Members of Loc. 10

## Notice of Regular Meeting

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1927, in  
ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE  
The Meeting Starts Promptly at 7:30 P. M.